

Message Text

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44

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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UNCLAS BOGOTA 1317

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STATE FOR S/NM, AMBASSADOR VANCE

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

1. LOCAL PRESS PLAY BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF U. S. TREND TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA HAS RAISED MANY ENQUIRIES RE U. S. COMMITMENT AGAINST MARIJUANA TRAFFIC. GOC MINJUSTICE, SEVERAL CHIEFS LOCAL NARCOTICS AGENCIES ARE ONLY A FEW. PRESS ACCOUNTS, THOUGH FACTUALLY ACCURATE, ARE SKETCHY AND LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT U. S. RAPIDLY MOVING TOWARD LEGALIZATION, OR AT LEAST ABANDONING FIRM STANCE AGAINST MARIJUANA TRAFFIC AND ABUSE. THIS IMPRESSION IS BOTH FALSE AND DETRIMENTAL TO MISSION'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT.

2. POST URGENTLY NEEDS ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION HERE OUTLINING U. S. POLICY TOWARDS MARIJUANA, PUTTING INDIVIDUAL STATES' ACTION INTO PERSPECTIVE, EXPLAINING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DECRIMINALIZING" AND "LEGALIZING" MARIJUANA, EXPLAINING REASONS FOR SOME STATES, MOVEMENTS TOWARD DECRIMINALIZATION, AND EMPHAZISING PENALTIES FOR

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MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS.

3. ALTHOUGH U. S. WHITE PAPER ON DRUGS FREQUENTLY
MISUNDERSTANDIOOD IN U. S., IT DOES OUTLINE U. S.
POLICY AND SHOULD BE REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE.

4. ARTICLE WAS REQUESTED IN CHATTEN LETTER TO ILA NOV.
20, 1975, BUT POST HAS SEEN NO ACTION YET.
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